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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA — DESP. NO. 1053

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

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DATE May 29, 1953

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	REC'D JUN 1	OTHER ARMY NAVY AIR CIA OSD	Action to DC/R

SUBJECT: Joint Weeka No. 22 - Section I

The clash within the railway workers' union SAMF between the pro-Communist Executive Committee headed by Aristeo SOSA Jr. and the faction led by the non-Communist opportunist Arturo MORALES Cubas this week spread beyond the union itself and imperilled the fragile unity of the pro-Administration party PRG. Sr. Morales Cubas resigned from the PRG after eight of the fourteen members of its Political Committee proposed that he be expelled for endangering the unity of the labor movement, and a counter offensive was immediately started among the lower ranks of the party for the expulsion of the pro-Communists Roberto ALVARADO Fuentes, Alfonso SOLORZANO and Abel CUENCA who had spearheaded the attack on Sr. Morales Cubas. Sr. Morales Cubas suffered a setback in his struggle to control the SAMF when the Government's Labor Department recognized Sr. Sosa's group as the legitimate Executive Committee but he will have another chance in elections for new officers scheduled for June 6.

DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

The struggle for the control over the railway workers' union SAMF continued unabated this week and repercussions from it appeared to be shaking the leftist political party, Partido de la Revolución Guatemalteca (PRG). Within the union, the pro-Communist Executive Committee scored a victory when the Government's Administrative Department of Labor (DAT) recognized it, rather than the Committee set up by the followers of Sr. Arturo Morales Cubas, as the governing body of the union. However, the forces of Sr. Morales Cubas may have gained some comfort from the DAT's warning that unless the Executive Committee holds elections for new union officers by June 6, the DAT itself will do so.

Meanwhile, Sr. Roberto ALVARADO Fuentes, co-Secretary General of the PRG, and other influential pro-Communists led a move to expel Sr. Morales Cubas from the party for conspiring against the unity of the labor movement. This move was

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apparently designed to bolster the Sosa group within the SAMF and probably also to deprive Sr. Augusto CHARNAUD MacDonald, the other Secretary General of that two-headed party, of the support which Sr. Morales Cubas has given him. Since his expulsion seemed inevitable, Sr. Morales Cubas resigned from the party without awaiting action by its Political Commission. At the same time, groups within the PRG petitioned the Political Commission to expel the important pro-Communists Roberto Alvarado Fuentes, Abel Cuenca and Alfonso Solorzano from the party, a petition which the press said would have to be considered by a National Council of the party.

Rank and file PRG members have repeatedly asked that a National Council be convened to elect party officials and the central leadership has repeatedly acquiesced but later postponed the meeting, usually alleging lack of funds. Should it meet, the Council promises to be the scene of a heated battle between the pro-Communists within the party and the followers of the independent, but nevertheless radical, Augusto Charnaud MacDonald.

PSYCHOLOGICAL

An extension of Communist propaganda was foreshadowed by the announcement last week of a campaign by the Guatemalan Labor (Communist)Party to raise $5,000 to finance a new daily paper to be called Tribuna Popular.

According to the May 21 issue of the Communist weekly Octubre, the drive for funds was launched at a meeting of the Partido Guatemalteco del Trabajo (PGT) on May 16; $300 had already been collected; and the Party's goal was to reach $5,000 in two months' time. Sr. Alfredo GUERRA Borges, principal editor of Octubre, said that the PGT's weekly was "no longer adequate". The people now need a daily spokesman...to unmask reactionary lies".

In another sector, the independent press continued sniping at a reported Government project to tighten radio broadcasting control (Weeka No. 21), despite the statement of Colonel Carlos ALDANA Sandoval, Minister of Communications, that he knew of no proposal that would restrict freedom of expression on the air.

According to El Imparcial of May 21, Colonel Aldana stated that a "technical" bill was being prepared to bring a greater degree of order into the procedures for licensing, wavelength assignment, etc. However, apprehensions were not allayed since on the same day the pro-Government, Communist-oriented Nuestro Diario quoted Colonel Aldana as saying: "It is regrettable to hear recorded foreign music every day over many stations in

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Guatemala while our own composers are ignored. All this will be duly regulated, and meetings will be held soon with persons involved in radio activity to give the finishing touches to these regulations".

Rudolf E. Schoenfeld

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